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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims 1-25 (including non-statutory amendments of claims 1-25) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims 1-25 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display panel system responsive to a highlighting request, the liquid crystal display panel system comprising:

a lamp providing lighting to the liquid crystal display panel, the lamp having a normal mode and a highlighting mode;

a power unit operatively coupled to the lamp, the power unit providing current to the lamp, the power unit being responsive to a control signal; and

a user interface operatively coupled to the power unit, the user interface providing the control signal to the power unit[.],

wherein the user interface provides an intermediate control signal in response to the highlighting request, the intermediate control signal causing the power unit to increase the current to the lamp from a normal mode current to an intermediate current above a highlighting mode current, then to decrease the current from the intermediate current to the highlighting mode current.

2 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the intermediate control signal causes the power unit to increase the current to the lamp from the normal mode current to an intermediate current above the highlighting mode current in a step change, then to decrease the current to the lamp exponentially from the intermediate current to the highlighting mode current.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the intermediate control signal causes the power unit to increase the current to the lamp from the normal mode current to an intermediate current above the highlighting mode current in a step change, to hold the intermediate current for a predetermined time, then to decrease the current to the lamp linearly from the intermediate current to the highlighting mode current.

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4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an integrated area under an intermediate current-time curve is maximized for ~~the characteristics~~ at least one characteristic of the lamp.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the power unit ~~comprises~~ includes a power supply supplying DC output voltage to an inverter, the inverter providing current to the lamp
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the power supply controls the current to lamp by varying the DC output voltage in response to the control signal
7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein, in response to the control signal, the inverter controls the current to lamp by varying a current parameter selected from ~~the a group consisting of~~ including a frequency of the current, a phase of the current, a pulse width modulation of the current, and ~~a~~ any combination thereof
8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
an LC driver responsive to a highlight area control signal from the user interface; ~~and,~~
wherein the liquid crystal display panel ~~having~~ has a highlight section[.], ~~and~~
wherein the LC driver controls lighting of the highlight section of the liquid crystal display panel.

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9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a lamp output sensor monitoring a light output of the lamp and providing a lamp output feedback signal, the lamp output feedback signal controlling the intermediate control signal.
10. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display panel system responsive to a highlighting request, the liquid crystal display panel system comprising:
means for lighting the liquid crystal display panel, the lighting means having a normal mode and a highlighting mode;
means for supplying current to the lighting means, the current supplying means being responsive to a control signal; and
means for interfacing with a user, the user interfacing means providing the control signal to the current supplying means[:].
wherein the user interfacing means provides an intermediate control signal in response to the highlighting request, the intermediate control signal causing the current supplying means to increase the current to the lighting means from a normal mode current to an intermediate current above a highlighting mode current, then to decrease the current from the intermediate current to the highlighting mode current.
- 11 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the intermediate control signal causes the current supplying means to increase the current to the lighting means from the normal mode current to an intermediate current above the highlighting mode current in a step change, then to decrease the current to the lighting means exponentially from the intermediate current to the highlighting mode current.

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12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the intermediate control signal causes the current supplying means to increase the current to the lighting means from the normal mode current to an intermediate current above the highlighting mode current in a step change, to hold the intermediate current for a predetermined time, then to decrease the current to the lighting means linearly from the intermediate current to the highlighting mode current.
13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ an integrated area under an intermediate current-time curve is maximized for ~~the characteristics~~ at least one characteristic of the lighting means.
14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, further comprising:
means for inverting DC to AC and providing current to the lighting means,
wherein the current supplying means ~~comprises means for supplying~~
supplies a DC output voltage to means for inverting DC to AC, the DC to AC
~~inverting means providing current to the lighting means.~~
15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the DC output voltage supplying means controls the current to the lighting means by varying the DC output voltage in response to the control signal.
16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein, in response to the control signal, the DC to AC inverting means controls the current to the lighting means by varying a current parameter selected from ~~the a group consisting of~~
including a frequency of the current, a phase of the current, a pulse width modulation of the current, and a any combination thereof.

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17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, further comprising:
an means for driving LCs responsive to a highlight area control signal from
the user interface; and,
wherein the liquid crystal display panel ~~having~~ has a highlight section[;], and
wherein the LC driving means controls lighting of the highlight section of the
liquid crystal display panel.
18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, further comprising:
means for monitoring a light output of the lighting means and providing a
lamp output feedback signal, the lamp output feedback signal controlling the
intermediate control signal.
19. (Currently Amended) A method of highlighting a liquid crystal display panel
in response to a highlighting request, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a lamp for lighting the liquid crystal display panel, the lamp having
a normal mode and a highlighting mode;
increasing current to the lamp from a normal mode current to an intermediate
current above a highlighting mode current in response to the highlighting request; and
decreasing the current from the intermediate current to the lamp to the
highlighting mode current.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising: ~~the step~~
~~of~~
holding the current at the intermediate current to the lamp for a predetermined
time.

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21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~the step of increasing current to the lamp from the normal mode current to the intermediate current further comprises~~ includes increasing the current by an increase selected from ~~the~~ a group ~~consisting of including~~ a step increase, a linear increase, and an exponential increase.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~the step of decreasing the current from the intermediate current to the lamp from normal mode current further comprises to the highlight mode current includes~~ decreasing intermediate the current by a decrease selected from ~~the~~ a group ~~consisting of including~~ a step decrease, a linear decrease, and an exponential decrease.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~the~~ an integrated area under an intermediate current-time curve from starting to increase current to the lamp from the normal mode current until finishing decreasing the intermediate current to the lamp to reach the highlighting mode current is maximized for ~~the characteristics at least one characteristic~~ of the lamp

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising: ~~the steps of:~~
monitoring a light output of the lamp to produce a lamp output feedback signal; and
adjusting the intermediate current based on the lamp output feedback signal.

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25. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display panel system responsive to a highlighting termination request, the liquid crystal display panel system comprising:

a lamp providing a lighting to the liquid crystal display panel, the lamp having a normal mode and a highlighting mode;

a power unit operatively coupled to the lamp, the power unit providing current to the lamp, the power unit being responsive to a control signal; and

a user interface operatively coupled to the power unit, the user interface providing the control signal to the power unit[.].

wherein the user interface provides an intermediate control signal in response to the highlighting termination request, the intermediate control signal causing the power unit to decrease the current to the lamp from a highlighting mode current to an intermediate current below a normal mode current, then to increase the current from the intermediate current to the normal mode current.